

# ARTS

PEOPLE P-T

ARTIST PROFILE

## Olga Rothschild Rug Hooker



PHOTO/DAVE MACCAFERRI

Olga Rothschild shows off the rug that won second prize in the 2010 Duxbury Winter Juried Art Show in the crafts category.

**When did you first become serious about art?**

My father was an artist and so I have always been serious about art.

**What medium do you work in? Why?**

I have worked in several mediums, primarily printmaking (woodcuts) and sculpture, stone carving. But about 25 years ago I discovered rug hooking from an elderly neighbor in Cornwall, Conn. She was skilled in all crafts, but I was fascinated by her rug hooking and she taught me the basics.

**Describe your creative process.**

I love wool fabric, collecting bits and pieces of old stuff, the feel of the wool and color. I hand-cut with scissors into strips about 1/4-inch wide and hook them through a linen foundation. I dye if I consider it necessary, but often use combinations of plaids and



PHOTO/DAVE MACCAFERRI

Olga Rothschild inspects one of her finished pieces to make sure it meets her high standards.

tweeds to achieve the effect I want. I am drawn to geometrics, but recently have been working in a more abstract manner.

**If someone is looking at one of your works, what feelings, thoughts or ideas do you want them to have?**

I want my viewers to respond primarily to wool color - different from painting color - and to enjoy the texture of my rugs. The image is secondary.

**Finish the following sentence: "Art is..."**

I don't know what art is, but I know it when I see it.

**Where can people go to see or buy your work?**

I work from a studio in my home and sell very few rugs, mostly to friends and family. I enjoy showing, however, and enter exhibits whenever possible.